

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A fluid collection apparatus comprising:
a housing configured for receipt of fluid and having a first surface which defines a needleless first mating portion; and
a holder having a first end and a second end configured to receive an evacuated tube, said first end defining a second mating portion on an outer surface thereof which is in fluid communication with the evacuated tube; ;
wherein said first mating portion is adapted to releasably couple and sealingly ~~engages~~ engage said second mating portion to establish fluid communication therebetween; and
a base disposed with said housing, said base being positionable on a support surface to ~~and being configured for support~~ said holder and said housing in upstanding relation with respect to the support surface ~~thereof~~.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said base has a top opening adapted for receiving said housing.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said base is adapted for standing on a the support surface.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said base is configured to enclose said holder.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said housing has a flange portion extending radially therefrom that engages said base.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said base defines at least one rib, said rib defining a step for supporting said housing.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said base defines a plurality of ribs, said ribs each defining a step for supporting said housing.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said base includes a plurality of sidewall extensions, said sidewall extensions being separated by cutout portions.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a removable cap, said cap being adapted to removably enclose an opening of said housing.

11. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 10 wherein said removable cap is adapted to provide a fluid seal with said housing.

12. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 10 wherein said removable cap includes a finger grip.

13-41. (Canceled)

42. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the first and second mating portions include respective first and second connectors, the first and second connectors being releasably couplable.

43. (New) The apparatus according to claim 42 wherein one of the first and second connectors is a male connector and the other of the first and second connectors is a female connector.

44. (New) The apparatus according to claim 42 wherein the first connector is a male luer connector and the second connector is a female luer connector.

45. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1 including an evacuated tube, said base defining a height sufficient to enclose said evacuated tube when said evacuated tube is received within said holder and said base is positioned on the support surface.

46. (New) A fluid collection apparatus comprising:

a housing configured for receipt of fluid and having a first mating connector;

a holder configured to receive an evacuated tube, the holder having a second mating connector and being in fluid communication with the evacuated tube when the evacuated tube is received within the holder;

wherein the first mating connector is releasably couplable to the second mating connector, and is adapted to sealingly engage the second mating connector to establish fluid communication therebetween; and

a base configured for supporting the housing.